

The NORTHWEST AIRLIFTER

McChord Air Force Base, Wash.

Connecting Team McChord with the Combat Airlift Mission

Vol. 40, No. 30
July 18, 2008



Freedom WHAT IT TAKES



McChord Air Expo 2008 Saturday and Sunday



Weekend Weather

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		
Hi: 73 Low: 50	Hi: 78 Low: 52	Hi: 76 Low: 54

Forecast generated at 7 a.m. Thursday
Courtesy of the 62nd Operations Support Squadron

Guide to Air Expo 2008

Pages 8-9

Don't miss it ... Hangar party

The hangar party starts at 4 p.m. today in Hangar 3. Attendees can park behind Bldg. 100 and walk to the ramp at the entry control point between Hangars 2 and 3.



McChord Air Expo 2008 is here!

By
Col. Jeffrey Stephenson
62nd Airlift Wing commander

For the first time in three years, McChord will open its gates this weekend to the public to showcase the inimitable capabilities of the U.S. Air Force and allow our community partners to meet the professional Airmen — military and civilian — of Team McChord.

I know all of you have been working incredibly hard these past six months to put together McChord's largest and most impressive air expo to date. I really appreciate your dedication to putting on a top-notch event for our neighboring communities.

I realize our commitment to Global War on Terror operations hasn't slowed down; in fact we're close to an all-time high with more than 700 personnel off-station. Yet even with our considerable number of deployments, we know the extreme importance of showing the public — the people we serve — the professionalism of their Airmen and what their Air Force is doing for them and their nation.

Our Puget Sound neighbors will witness how we keep deployed units supplied through C-17 Globemaster

III statics and demonstrations, observe the future of our service by visiting the F-22 Raptor, and get a close look at the rich history of the Air Force by watching the U.S. Air Force Heritage Flight.

Just as McChord Air Expo 2008 is a way to say thank you to our local community for its vast support, I also want to ensure you, Team McChord, understand how appreciative I am of the work you've put into making the 2008 Air Expo a reality.

In that spirit, you and your families are invited to an air expo party today in Hangar 3. The party will begin at 4 p.m. and features a Kid Zone, thousands of dollars in giveaways and free food. If that's not enough to draw you there, the Spazmatics, an 80s cover band, will perform live starting at 6 p.m.

While the party may not start until 4 p.m., Delta Ramp (on the flightline) will be open to Team McChord and its families from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. so everyone can get a sneak peek at the aerial demonstration teams as they practice. Our headliner, the Air Force Thunderbirds, will fly at 2 p.m. I am asking you to please park behind Bldg. 100 (62nd Airlift Wing Headquarters) and enter the ramp at the entry control point between Hangars 2 and 3 for both the practice

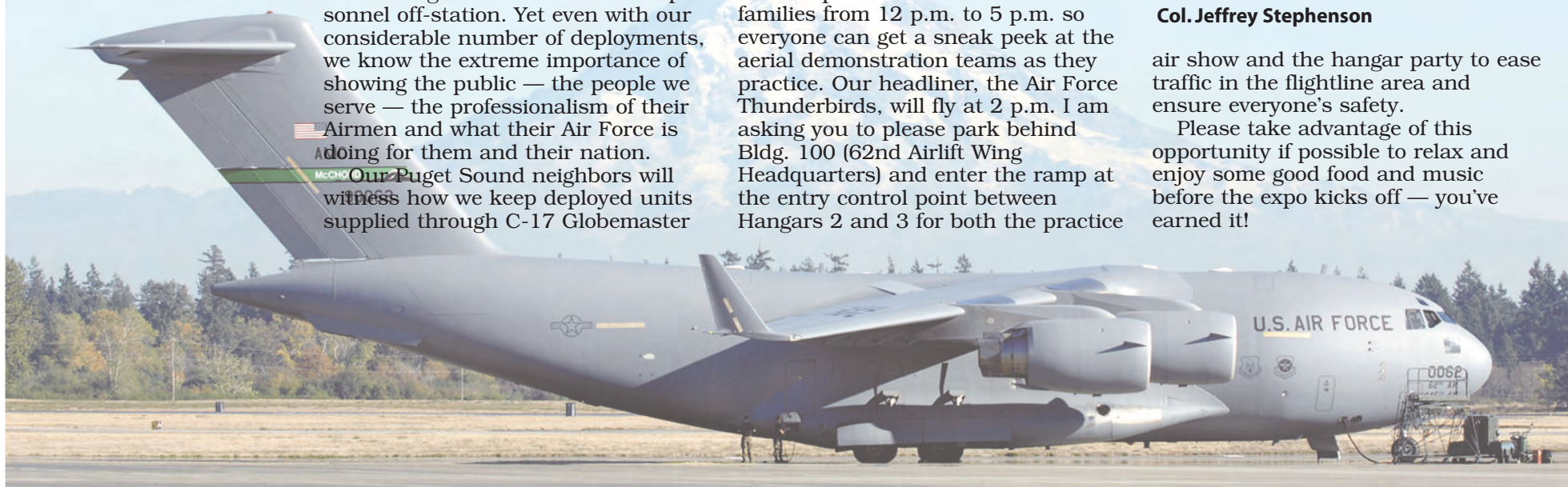


U.S. Air Force photo

Col. Jeffrey Stephenson

air show and the hangar party to ease traffic in the flightline area and ensure everyone's safety.

Please take advantage of this opportunity if possible to relax and enjoy some good food and music before the expo kicks off — you've earned it!



Professionals of the week

62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Staff Sgt. Nathan Karlen

Duty title:
C-17 electronic warfare craftsman

Duty section:
62nd AMXS Silver Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Hometown:
Vancouver, British Columbia

Why he's tops:

Sergeant Karlen is an extremely capable professional. His diligence and energy have helped ease the recent Major Command-directed transition of electronic warfare personnel from 62nd Maintenance Squadron to the 62nd AMXS. He is a talented non-commissioned officer, simultaneously learning the intricacies of his new unit, continuing maintenance of C-17 electronic warfare systems and ensuring quality training for new EW personnel. In addition, his efforts to combine three career fields into a single avionics shop while eliminating or minimizing career field degradation is a testament to his technical and leadership expertise. Sergeant Karlen's initiative and dedication make him a vital asset to the 62nd AMXS.



Senior Airman Lucas O'Neill

Duty title:
Electrical-Environmental system specialist

Duty section:
62nd AMXS Blue Aircraft Maintenance Unit

Hometown:
Boise, Idaho

Why he's super:

Airman O'Neill continuously sets the standard for his peers. As a flying crew chief, he is entrusted with the maintenance and care of an \$86 million aircraft, helping to ensure successful execution of McChord's global mission. He continually seeks new learning opportunities and recently completed his Community College of the Air Force degree in aviation maintenance technology. He enjoys playing golf and is a member of the McChord golf team, competing against local Army and Navy teams. Airman O'Neill was selected as the 62nd AMXS Airman of the Quarter for second quarter 2008. His professionalism and dedication make him a critical member of the 62nd AMXS team.



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62ND AIRLIFT WING, MCCORD AFB, WASHINGTON

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5th ASOS Airman named to select AF group

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

On a recent trip home from a temporary duty assignment, Tech. Sgt. Earl Covell got a rather unexpected call on his cell phone.

On the other line was an Air Force three-star general alerting Sergeant Covell he had been named one of the Air Force's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"He first asked me if I had a minute to talk," said Sergeant Covell, a joint terminal attack controller previously with the 5th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Lewis whose since been transferred to the 17th ASOS out of Fort Benning, Ga. "I said 'Sir, I have all the time in the world for a three-star.'"

After getting over the initial excitement of the topic of the conversation, the gravity of the situation hit home with the Portland, Ore., native.

"It's a real honor," he said. "It was pretty cool to get the word right from a lieutenant general's mouth. I just consider myself lucky to have leadership that looks out for their troops."

The Air Force selection board at the Air Force Personnel Center considered 33 nominees who repre-



Courtesy photo

Tech. Sgt. Earl Covell, formerly of the 5th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Lewis, floats to the ground during a recent training exercise in California. Sergeant Covell was one of 12 Airmen named Outstanding Airman of the Year.

sented major commands, direct reporting units, field operating agencies and Air Staff agencies. The board selected the 12 based on superior leadership, job performance and personal achievement.

Sergeant Covell, a 12-year Air Force veteran, is assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion, a special operations unit on Fort Lewis. He works hand-in-hand with his Army counterparts to provide air support

for whatever the situation on the ground warrants.

"We're the kind of guys that get the call when times get bad and you have to break the glass," said Sergeant Covell, who was awarded a Silver Star in 2007 for bravery in battle and has been deployed more than five times to classified locations since the start of the global war on terror.

In order to integrate the proper

air support for the situation and work closely with the Army special operations units, JTACs have to have a broad base of knowledge, said Master Sgt. Ron Fleming, 5th ASOS operations superintendent.

"The JTACs that work with the Rangers are the best in their career field," said Sergeant Fleming, who put together Sergeant Covell's awards package for submission. "Earl is a very motivated warrior — the guy will go 110 percent to make sure the mission is accomplished."

All of Sergeant Covell's hard work with the Rangers has earned him a great amount of respect in Army circles, Sergeant Fleming said.

"Over at the battalion, he's a Ranger," he said. "I think that's pretty incredible."

While Sergeant Covell is grateful for the award, he said he is no more special than any other JTAC. He said he is a big believer in the joint environment working with the Army.

"The days of the Air Force being in the rear with the gear are subsiding," he said.

The Air Force Association will honor Sergeant Covell and the 11 other Outstanding Airmen of the Year during its Air and Space Conference and Technology Exposition in Washington, D.C., in September.

Hangar party today

Team McChord members and their families are invited to McChord's Air Expo hangar party and to practice air show today. Park behind building 100 and proceed to the entry control point between Hangars 2 and 3.

Practice Air Show

Noon to 5 p.m. — Delta ramp will be open to Team McChord and their families to view the aerial demonstration teams' practices.

2 p.m. — The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds fly.

Hangar Party

4 p.m. — Doors open with kids carnival.

5 p.m. — Free chicken fajitas, soda and water until it's gone.

6 to 8 p.m. — "Spazmatics" live band performance.

The party will also feature door prizes and Matchup Live tickets.

SPAZMATICS



NERDS THAT ROCK



Expo represents special homecoming for F-22 Raptor pilot

By

Tyler Hemstreet
Staff writer

Capt. Jammie Jamieson left the state of Washington with a fledgling love of flying. This weekend she returns as the first female operational and combat-ready pilot of the world's most advanced fighter aircraft, the F-22A Raptor.

Captain Jamieson, who was born in Tacoma and lived in Prosser from 1982 until she left for the Air Force Academy in 1996, will be on hand as part of the F-22A Raptor static display featured at McChord Air Expo 2008.

"I'm excited to come back to Washington," said Captain Jamieson, who is currently stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, where she is the mobility flight commander for the 525th Fighter Squadron. "(At the expo) you get to meet a lot of people excited about aviation and air power, so that's pretty inspiring. It's definitely an honor for me to be there."

The Prosser High grad got her first taste of flying growing up when she shared the cockpit with her uncle in his Cessna 172 during local flights around central Washington.

"I loved it," she said.

The quest that started in part from a strong desire to be an astronaut soon took on a more direct connection with flying at the academy as Captain Jamieson worked as an instructor in the glider program.



Capt. Jammie Jamieson, a Prosser native and an F-22 Raptor pilot with the 525th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, will make an appearance at McChord Air Expo 2008 as part of the F-22 static display.

After receiving her commission through the academy in 2000 and a master's degree in public policy in national security and political economy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 2002, Captain Jamieson completed the F-15C Basic Course at Tyndall AFB, Fla. After three years flying the F-15C in Alaska, she completed the F-22A Transition Qualification Course at Tyndall in

April.

"It's cool to have a job with the view that it offers when I'm in the sky," she said.

Although her job as a fighter pilot requires long hours of flying practice each week, Captain Jamieson said it's an honor to be able to fly an aircraft like the Raptor.

"It's a challenging and exciting experience every day," the captain said. "Air-to-air combat is very fluid

and is always changing."

Captain Jamieson said she's looking forward to educating people on the F-22 and what's it like to be a fighter pilot. There may even be some young pilots with big dreams in attendance — something the captain can no doubt relate to.

"The kids are the most exciting," she said. "I'll be able to answer as many questions as I can ... I'm looking forward to that."



McChord Airmen

AROUND THE WORLD



Courtesy photo

CAMP CROPPER, Iraq — Capt. Bryan Hall, 62nd Airlift Wing Judge Advocate office, stands outside at Camp Cropper during a recent deployment. He is assisting the Iraqi government with reviewing files and providing hearings for the suspected insurgent and terrorist detainees.



Courtesy photo

MANAS AIR BASE, Kyrgyzstan — Airman 1st Class Landon Jensen, 62nd Aerial Port Squadron, left, and Staff Sgt. Marc Warman, deployed from Aviano Air Base, Italy, tie down a Humvee for transport in a C-5 Galaxy during a recent deployment.



Man's best friend plays key role in GWOT

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks
62nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs

When Airmen deploy, some may find themselves with a roommate or co-worker who may be a little rough around the edges, who doesn't quite communicate in the same dialect or may even have an unusual diet.

However, they probably don't bark or bite.

But two Airmen from the 62nd Security Forces Squadron here know all about what it's like to deploy with man's best friend as both roommate and co-worker.

Staff sergeants Melissa Szczerbiak and Brian LeCloux are military working dog handlers. Both recently returned from deployments that highlight a very unique and important job in the Air Force.

Handlers deploy and work with the Air Force's sister services, typically conducting weapons/munitions cache searches.

The teams are a force multiplier, said Sergeant LeCloux, ensuring the safety of our brethren – be it Army, Iraqi Army or coalition forces.

"Most importantly, being able to detect explosives before our forces enter into a structure that's unsafe," he said.

Sergeant LeCloux was deployed to Forward Operating Base Normandy, Iraq, and ultimately went on 18 missions with Meki, a four-year-old German shepherd.

Despite being deployed for the first time, Meki was fearless in the face of danger, said Sergeant LeCloux. At one point, Meki was medevaced to Balad Air Base after a shrapnel injury that would require a few stitches, but it never slowed him down.

Military working dogs remain with their han-

dlers unless secured, so Meki shared living quarters with Sergeant LeCloux while at the FOB. Sergeant Szczerbiak, who was deployed to Camp Stryker, Iraq, also shared quarters with her dog Tim, a five-year-old Belgian malinois on his third deployment in two years.

Sergeant Szczerbiak said the dogs there were initially kept inside another tent, but the handlers chose to keep the dogs with them, which was great for maintaining rapport. Establishing rapport between a handler and their dog is a critical step in the training process prior to deployment, especially considering the nature of their work, she said.

In addition to encountering crush wire, house-borne and other improvised explosives devices during searches for weapons caches, there were other unique challenges. Sergeant Szczerbiak said they encountered stray dogs and mules, and were once actually chased by cows.

But it wasn't just "dog days" for Sergeant LeCloux and Sergeant Szczerbiak. The Airmen both said it was a rewarding experience to work with the sister services.

"The culmination of knowledge from all of the forces there was an incredible experience by itself," Sergeant Szczerbiak said.

One of her first missions, she said, was working with the cadaver dog teams, looking for missing Soldiers. This required additional training from Army contractors, who work with the dogs to locate human remains.

In a memo from the Department of the Army, Sgt. Maj. Richard Gardner, 3rd Infantry Division Provost Marshal Sergeant Major at Camp Victory, Iraq, extended his appreciation for Sergeant Szczerbiak's hard work and professionalism while attached to the Multi-National Division Center's MWD program.

"Sergeant Szczerbiak demonstrated a work



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Melissa Szczerbiak, 62nd Security Forces Squadron, and her Belgian malinois, Tim, patrol Camp Stryker, Iraq, during a recent deployment.

ethic that made it immediately clear she understood the gravity of what the job entailed," Sergeant Major Gardner wrote.

He added that in over 20 years of service, Sergeant Szczerbiak was "hands down the best Airman" he had ever worked with, and that her performance in support of the Global War on Terrorism set a standard for all others to emulate.



Welcome to the McChord Air Expo 2008

Housing Gate and Shuttles

During Air Expo 2008, the housing gate will be open to military ID card holders only. Expo officials are recommending only military members use the housing gate. It is not open to the general public.

The shuttles to the entry control point start at 8 a.m. and will run until the end of each day.

Shuttles will run on a continuous schedule. All will drop off at the entry control point.

Information for residents in base housing

McChord Air Force Base is opening the main gate and the Barnes gate to the public on Saturday and Sunday as the base hosts Air Expo 2008. Gates will open at 8:00 a.m., and the flying starts at 11:00 a.m.

Housing residents who wish to travel to the Commissary or the Base Exchange during the show will be allowed access from Fairway Drive and Lincoln Boulevard only. Barnes Boulevard will be kept free of traffic to allow emergency vehicle and bus access to and from the expo area.

For safety reasons, nobody is allowed in the Holiday Park and Heritage Hill areas during the show. This includes the practice air show scheduled for today.

Housing residents will not be able to drive their personal vehicles from housing to the air expo grounds. They should take the shuttles from housing to the expo grounds; the shuttles begin service at 8 a.m. each day.



Air Expo 2008 aerial performance schedule

Acts will perform in the order listed

C-17 Globemaster III aerial demonstration
U.S. Air Force Academy aerial performance team "Wings of Blue"
Jacque B's Pitts S-1T
Air Force Reserve Jet Car
Bud Granley's T-6
B-2 Spirit (Saturday only)
F-15C Eagle tactical demonstration
MiG-17 performance
P-51 Mustang Heritage Flight
Bud and Ross Granley's Dueling YAKs
F-A/18F Super Hornet tactical demonstration
AD-3 Skyraider Legacy Flight
Tim Weber's Geico Extra 300
Bombing of Pearl Harbor reenactment, "Tora, Tora, Tora"
U. S. Air Force Thunderbirds

PARKING

SHUTTLES:

Start: 8 a.m. to end

HOUSING GATE:

7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday

KEY

● = Shuttle Stop

Fairway Rd.

Library
WADS

Habenero's

Carter Lake
Elementary School

Ginko Dr.

Lincoln Blvd.

Dogwood St.

Woodbrook Rd.

Air Expo 2008 Safety Tips

McChord officials want visitors to be safe while enjoying all the amazing acts during the Air Expo. To keep everyone safe, please remember the following safety rules while on base:

- Don't smoke on the flightline.
- Trash and other waste must be placed in appropriate waste receptacles so aircraft engines are not at risk.
- Observe all signs, including the ones that say, "Do Not Touch."
- Please do not touch any aircraft unless you've been invited to do so by the aircrew.
- Do not climb on aircraft.
- Do not cross the crowd fencing.
- Stay within the confines of the Air Expo area.
- Bicycles, skates, rollerblades and skateboards are not allowed during the Air Expo.
- Do not use maintenance equipment, vehicles, portable facilities, roofs of buildings, exterior surfaces or anything else that is considered unsafe for a viewing stand.
- Pets are prohibited on the flightline. Exceptions are service animals used by the disabled.
- Be alert for power cords, aircraft grounding wires and uneven pavement.
- Bring and use hearing protection when needed.
- In the event of a lost child, security forces will transport the child to the Red Cross tent. Parents should contact the personnel at the Red Cross tent in the event they can't find their child.
- The following items are prohibited as well: coolers, weapons, glass bottles, alcohol, back packs and bags. Also, all purses and diaper bags are subject to search while on McChord.

In the event of thunderstorms before 1 p.m., spectators will be directed to the hangars or vehicles until the weather clears.

Berlin Airlift lays foundation for today's air mobility

By

Theo W. Ramsey
Air Mobility Command
Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. — Sixty years ago today, the fledgling United States Air Force airlifted its first of 2.3 million tons of coal, food and supplies to the besieged city of Berlin. Stalin had cut off all ground transportation through Russian territory to the surrounded city of Berlin. The Berlin Airlift sustained a city of more than 2 million citizens for over a year, and this first confrontation of the new Cold War was a symbol of America's commitment to democracy, and a proving ground for our nation's airlift capabilities.

Air Force airlifters may not have known in 1948 the broader political implications derived from the success of the Berlin Airlift, but they knew their humanitarian mission was important. Air Force Col. (ret.) Gail Halvorson said, "We knew Stalin was the new enemy and needed to be stopped. We had been briefed for about two years about the threat so we knew the mission was important. I didn't know just how important it was at the time."

The success of the Berlin Airlift accelerated Allied plans to unite the West German tri-sector of Berlin and create the new German Federal Republic after World War II. "In my view," said Colonel Halvorson, "the Airlift saved Berlin, and along with the Marshall Plan in West Germany, it stopped Communism's spread west, eventually the Wall to come down, and finally the dismantling of the Soviet Union. It did change post war history and the rest of my life."

Colonel Halvorson, dubbed the 'Candy Bomber,' earned this nickname, along with several others, including his favorite, 'Uncle Wiggly Wings,' by becoming the first pilot to airdrop candy from his plane to the hungry and oppressed children of Berlin. The German children recognized his plane on approach because he wiggled the wings left and right before he dropped the candy — each piece slowed by a tiny parachute that he attached to prevent injury to the children.

Airdropping candy made Colonel Halvorson famous, particularly in Germany. But the primary mission of delivering food and supplies to Berlin's beleaguered citizens moved him, and has affected his life ever since. "When I unloaded my first

20,000 pounds of flour, the look in the eyes and the hand shake of the unloaders was as if we were angels from heaven," he said. "They needed flour and freedom. We had both."

Andrei Cherny, a former White House speechwriter and author of *The Candy Bombers*, reported that in Germany, and especially in Berlin, Colonel Halvorson has become part of the national lore. When Colonel Halvorson and other Berlin Airlift veterans arrived at Templehof at 7 a.m. for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift in 1998, the line had already grown to more than 200 people. Cherny wrote, "The Berliners approached him all day, nodding a few words of thanks or silently, tearfully grasping his hand...Sixty-year-old men broke down as they told him what a parachute that fell to their feet as they walked through ruined streets had meant to them as children."

The compassion of the United States and its Allies during the Berlin Airlift toward the same German people we had been at war with just three years prior, was deeply felt by a German public oppressed by Stalinist Russia. During the Cold War, Germany determined to never repeat history

and slowly built up a large stockpile of food and supplies. When Germany was reunited in 1990, Cherny said, "West Berliners, imprisoned behind a wall by Russian soldiers and policies for forty years, might have been expected to look toward their defeated foes with something approaching hatred. Instead, they decided they would turn over their hoarded food and supplies, to the very people who had made that stockpile necessary."

Compassion and airlift made it happen. The impact of airlift and the Airmen who provide it is far-reaching. The Air Force, and Air Mobility Command, builds on its strong airlift heritage each day, consistently delivering combat and humanitarian capabilities with precision, speed, agility, commitment and technical skill.

The unprecedented accomplishments of the Berlin Airlift still stand as one of the greatest humanitarian and political missions in world history. The Air Force and Air Mobility Command take the lessons and insights from the Berlin Airlift and continue to apply them toward winning today's fight, taking care of our people, and preparing for tomorrow's challenges.



Photo by Abner Guzman

A bug's life

Point Defiance Zoo educator Scott Kiersztyn, shows children a mealworm during an insect presentation Tuesday at the McChord library. The presentation, which worked in conjunction with the library's summer reading program, taught children the differences between insects and humans, how to identify insects and the variety of jobs insects perform.



Open or closed this weekend ...

Check here to see which base facilities will be impacted by the air expo.

Commissary:	Open normal business hours, however, there will be a 100 percent DoD ID card check at the front door on both days.
Base Exchange:	Food court and BX will be open normal business hours.
Post office:	Closed for the weekend.
Base pool:	Will close at 3 p.m. today and remain closed for the weekend.
Sounders Lanes:	Closed for the weekend.
McChord Clubs and Community Center:	Closed for the weekend.
McChord Air Museum:	Closed for the weekend.
Whispering Firs Golf Course:	Open normal business hours.
Fitness center:	Open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily through the weekend.
Burger King:	Drive-Thru is open during normal business hours. Dining room is currently closed for renovation.



Iraqi air force acquires new aircraft from U.S. forces

By

Army Staff Sgt. Michael Carden
American Forces
Press Service

NEW AL MUTHANA AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) — U.S. forces transferred ownership of 11 aircraft to the Iraqi air force recently during a ceremony at New Al Muthana Air Base.

Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command Iraq, signed over eight Cessna 172s and three Cessna Caravan 208s worth more than \$9 million to Iraqi Defense Minister Abd al-Qadir al-Mufriji.

Brig. Gen. Brooks Bash said the aircraft would be part of the Iraqi air force's training program at Kirkuk Regional Air Base in northern Iraq. Similar to the way the U.S. Air Force conducts its own training, the smaller Cessna 172 is the initial aircraft Iraqi pilots will learn to fly, while the Cessna Caravan 208 is the more advanced, graduated version, the commander of coalition air force training in Iraq added.

In fact, General Bash said, the Cessna 172 is the first aircraft he learned to fly almost 33 years ago.

"The Cessna 172 is very special to me, because it was the first aircraft I ever flew," he said. "And still today, it's the first aircraft pilots in



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen

Brig. Gen. Brooks L. Bash, Coalition Air Force Training Team commander, Army Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, Iraqi Defense Minister Abdul-Qader Mohammed Jassim, and Iraqi Air Force Chief Kamal Abdul-Sattar al-Barazanchi sign paperwork to transfer ownership of 11 U.S. Forces aircraft to the Iraqi air force at New Al Muthana Air Base, Iraq, July 9. General Helmick signed over eight Cessna 172s and three Cessna Caravan 208s worth more than \$9 million to the Iraqi Defense Minister.

the United States Air Force fly, and now it's the first aircraft Iraqi air force pilots will fly."

General Bash praised the Iraqi air force for the success it's already had. During the past four

months, the air force participated in major coalition operations in Basra, Mosul, Al-Amarah and in Baghdad's Sadr City district.

The Iraqi air force is an important reason for the declining

attack levels in those areas and throughout the country, the general noted.

General Bash said Iraqi security would continue benefiting from its air force with the new fleet of Cessnas. The additional aircraft will allow more than 130 new pilots to train and graduate by 2010.

"As of now, the Iraqi air force is just beginning to grow," he said. "They will double in size within the next year, giving them up to 6,000 airmen and 133 aircraft by the end of 2009."

In addition, the King Air intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft and King Air light transport aircraft were unveiled during the ceremony. The aircraft were purchased by Iraq's defense ministry for the ISR capability, General Bash said.

He stated the King Air ISR represents the future of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft. It provides the latest technology and capabilities in camera-intelligence and surveillance gathering, he added.

The addition of the new aircraft and additional assets to the Iraqi force "signifies the strong partnership between Iraq and United States," he said. "It also represents the strength and growth of Iraqi forces as they continue to fight terrorism and provide security and new capabilities to their country."



Recycling contract turns trash into treasure

By

Army Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III
76th Infantry Brigade
Combat Team

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq (AFPN) — War is messy — literally — but U.S. forces, contractors and Iraqis found a way to turn the military's trash into Iraq's economic treasure.

Albu-Hussan-based Almandhour United Company oversees waste-management operations here following a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 10 that commemorated the opening of a recycling center here.

"This is a great day for Joint Base Balad because we've solved a problem that's been present here for a long time, and it's a great day because we have yet another opportunity to help the local economy," said Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing and installation commander.

The center is designed to spur green practices among Balad's waste management operations by creating a hub for recyclables to be collected and shipped to recycling plants throughout Iraq.

In the past, recyclables have either been burned in incinerators or stockpiled throughout various holding areas on base. With the new recycling center, large amounts of aluminum, glass, plastics, cardboard and steel products will instead be packed up and shipped to recycling centers near Baghdad and sold on the Iraqi market.

Neseb Saad Hasan Altememy, the general manager for Almandhour United, said his com-

pany plans to profit most from the large amounts of aluminum thrown away on Balad.

More than 90,000 aluminum soda cans are thrown away daily on post, according to U.S. Army figures. The center will be able to export more than a ton of aluminum each day, which goes for about \$750 on the Iraqi market, Mr. Altememy said.

"With the addition of this center, Joint Base Balad looks to reduce its trash volume by literally tons a day," said Army Col. Kenneth Newlin, deputy commander of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. "The center will also have the ability to drive new industries here and allow us to aggressively seek a new market for plastics recycling locally."

Besides providing a green approach to bolstering the Iraqi economy, the center will also present jobs to local Iraqis.

"If we're ever going to leave this country, we have to build not only by supporting its people, but its economy, too," said Army Capt. Robert Yates, a contracting officer with the Air Force's Joint Contracting Command-Iraq.

Joint Contracting Command-Iraq crafted the contract, while Soldiers from the 76th Infantry BCC and the Indiana National Guard worked with the Iraqi-Based Industrial Zone, or I-BIZ, initiative to head up hiring and negotiations. Because both departments have strict hiring standards written into the contracts, the Iraqi people have first pick when it comes to these jobs.

"The I-BIZ program does an excellent job because it allows the



Photo by Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III

Sheikh Saad Hasan Altememy, a local leader near Balad, Iraq, confers with Air Force Brig. Gen. Brian Bishop recently during a ribbon-cutting ceremony for an Iraqi-run recycling center at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. The recycling center will provide 30 jobs to local Iraqis and assist current efforts to sort through daily garbage collection on base for recyclables. The recyclables will then be shipped off base and sold for profit on the Iraqi market. General Bishop is the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander and installation commander.

U.S. government to share these kinds of contracts more often with the Iraqi people, rather than with larger contractors who are here from other countries," Mr. Altememy said. "We feel like we have developed trust from the U.S., and so now better jobs are available to us."

Besides making money for its

host nation, U.S. Forces plan to profit from the contract in the form of cost savings. Originally, a contract with non-Iraqi contractors was envisioned, with a price tag of about \$1.5 million per year. Because Almandhour United will profit from the recyclables alone, no bidding costs were incurred through contracting agreements.



Experience helps Airmen mentor academy cadets

By

Staff Sgt. Eric Burks

62nd Airlift Wing

Public Affairs

The Operation Air Force program not only opens up a whole new world to Air Force Academy cadets, but also gives the Airmen in charge of overseeing visiting cadets a chance to mentor the next generation of Airmen.

Nineteen academy cadets visited McChord from June 1 – 21 during the first phase of the career-broadening program for cadets at the Air Force Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Capt. Ian Ostermiller, 10th Airlift Squadron, has participated in the program for the last two years.

“For the 10th, we tried to rotate the cadets through as many positions as possible to give them a perspective on a lot of things,” he said.

“Hopefully they learned a little about operations and scheduling, personnel, tactics and employment.”

Captain Ostermiller, a 2003 academy graduate, served this year as the 10th AS facilitator and troop commander during a C-17 Globemaster III mission from here to Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, and back. In 2007, he was the 62nd Operations Group officer in charge, and took care of anything the cadets did with the OG, including planning and flying a C-17 to Colorado Springs, Colo., to pick up the cadets. As a cadet, he participated in a specialized version of the program in the summer before his junior year and shadowed Military Training Instructors at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

“What is different is that they have the opportunity each summer now,” said Captain Ostermiller. “I think the value in repeated exposure is obvious from the perspective of repetition in training, but more precisely, it allows the cadets to go into greater depth regarding the roles of the various members in the Air Force.”

The squadron’s goal was to expose cadets to the full range so that they would have not only the hands-on environment in which to learn, but also to give them a good perspective of the breadth of what a mobility squadron does, the captain said.

“Additionally, we tried to rotate all cadets through the flying schedule so that they all got to experience actual flying, in the form of local training sorties,” he said.

The C-17 mission to Hawaii was an opportunity to expand on the local training, he said.

“An off-station trainer that crosses the ocean is a great way to get cadets close to the mission in a controlled environment,” Captain Ostermiller said. “They get to see all aspects, from working with the aerial port troops to interacting with the aircrew. Hopefully they come away from the experience with a smile on their face, but also with a better understanding of all the moving pieces involved in getting from A to B, especially when B is across the ocean.”

In a sense, he said, the flight also served as an advertisement for the mobility mission. “You see a lot of the world, and Hawaii is a good way to get somebody’s attention.”

“The academy offers some great opportunities, including Operation Air Force,” Captain Ostermiller said, “and it’s important (for the cadets) to take those lessons they learn and hit the ground running.”

Security Awareness Day is Tuesday

Air Force leadership has designated Tuesday as a day to provide all personnel education and a heightened level of awareness of the ever increasing threats to our information, assets and base networks.

The day focuses on improving Computer Security (COMPUSEC), Information Security (INFOSEC) and Operational Security (OPSEC) and ways to protect the network and keep classified information secure.

For more information, contact the wing's information assurance office at 982-3809.

Base housing power outage

There will be a power outage in base housing from 8 to 10 a.m. on Wednesday. The units that will be affected are in the 2000, 3000, 4000 and 5000 areas. The power outage is necessary in order to perform maintenance and repairs on high voltage power lines near the housing substation. For more information, call John Keizer at 982-2583.

Rape Aggression Defense course

A free Rape Aggression Defense course will be taught here throughout the month of August. The classes are from 1 to 4 p.m. each Thursday of the month and the course is open to women ages 16 and older. Participants learn risk reduction tips and physical defense strategies taught by certified instructors in this national and internationally accredited course. Prior self defense experience is not required. Call 982-0457 for registration.

Chief's Group scholarship

The McChord Chief's Group offers a scholarship program to defer the education-related financial obligations of active duty enlisted personnel in grades E-1 through E-5 pursuing mid-level and advanced degrees. Applications can be picked up at the Education Center (Bldg. 851), from any McChord active duty chief master sergeant or from the Chief's Group share point site. Scholarship applications are due by July 25 and can be sent via e-mail to rodneyn.billinghurst@mcchord.af.mil or given to your group superintendent or any McChord chief master sergeant. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Rod Billinghurst at 982-5817.

Burger King drive-thru open

The Burger King on McChord is currently under renovation, with the project set to be finished July 28. The renovation will include new restrooms, new tables and chairs and new counters in the dining room. While the dining room will be closed, the drive thru window will remain open during normal business hours: Monday through Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Housing Office hours

The McChord Housing Office has recently revised its hours of operation. Walk-in hours are now 1 to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Appointment hours are 8 to 11 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For community housing assistance, call 982-5517, and for military housing assistance, call 982-5516.



Faith and Worship Programs

**For more information,
call the chapel support center at 982-5556.**

The following chapel program takes place at the base chapel support center, Bldg. 746, unless otherwise noted:

Adult Bible study is from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

Schedule of worship services

Catholic services:

All Catholic services are in chapel two.

Saturday: 4 p.m. Confession

5 p.m. Mass

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Mass

11 a.m. Mass

Protestant services:

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Liturgical worship: Chapel one

9:45 a.m. Sunday school for all ages at the chapel support center

11 a.m. Traditional worship: Chapel one

11 a.m. Contemporary service: Chapel support center

Jewish services:

Friday: 6 p.m. Fort Lewis chapel every 1st, 3rd and 5th at the corner of 12th Street and Liggett Avenue 967-6590

Orthodox activities:

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, St. Nicholas Church, 15th Street and Yakima Avenue, Tacoma

Other services:

Orthodox Christian Community, Cascade Chapel, Fort Lewis

Sundays: 8:45 a.m. Pre-Communion prayers

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Confession is by appointment only. Call Father John Anderson at 967-1717 or 906-6843 or e-mail father.anderson@us.army.mil.

Names to Note

The following individuals from class 08-5 at The Vosler Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Peterson Air Force Base, Col., recently graduated:

• **Tech. Sgt. Sarah Butcher**, 62nd Force Support Squadron

• **Tech. Sgt. Richard Dell**, 62nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

• **Tech. Sgt. Christina Grillo**, 1st Air Support Operations Group

• **Tech. Sgt. Kelly Jacobs**, 62nd AMXS

• **Tech. Sgt. Shane Johnson**, 62nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

• **Tech. Sgt. Sean Schroeder**, 62nd Medical Operations Squadron

• **Tech. Sgt. Christopher Smith**, 62nd LRS

• **Tech. Sgt. Paul Villa**, 62nd AMXS

• **Tech. Sgt. Richard Young**, 62nd Maintenance Squadron

